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# REASONS

Humbly offered by the

## Leather - Sellers

165  
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O F T H E

Cities of *London* and *Westminster*, and Parts adjacent,  
to the Consideration of the Honourable the  
Knights, Citizens, and Burgeses, of *Great Bri-*  
*tain* in Parliament Assembled, against a Duty on  
Leather.

Commons  
App

*Imprimis.* **L** Osb, Buffelo, Elk, and Red Hides from *Russia*, do now pay  
near 20 l. per Cent. upon Importation, the greatest part of  
them are used by the Army; and if a further Duty should be laid thereon,  
it may cause that part of the Furniture to be supplied in *Holland*.

*Buck* and *Doe* Skins, with *Buffelo* and *Elk* Hides aforesaid, being  
chiefly the Growth of her Majesties Plantations in *America*, and *Cordevant*  
Skins from *Turky* and *Barbary* do also pay the like Duty.

The Hides and Skins aforesaid are chiefly purchased with the Woollen  
Manufactory of this Kingdom; and should a further Duty be laid on  
*Leather*, it will greatly discourage the Exportation of the Woollen Manu-  
factory, and the Importation of the said *Hides* and *Skins*, and lessen the  
Revenue.

Nine Parts in Ten of the Deer Skins Imported are Drest in *England*  
with *Newfoundland* Oil, which pays a ~~great~~ Duty, One Quarter of which  
Skins, when Drest, are not worth more than the Money paid for Freight,  
Present Duty, and the Dressing.

*Sheep* and *Lamb* Pelts being the Growth of *Great-Britain*, are of a very  
small Value, yet do employ many Thousands of Poor People in Dressing  
them into White *Leather* with Salt, Allum, &c one Fifth Part, when  
Drest, are not worth more than a Penny a Skin, and consequently cannot  
be Drest into *Leather*; and if a Duty should be laid thereon, must be  
the Ruin of a great Number of Poor Families, whose Livelihoods depend  
in working the same.

It may be objected, That if a Duty is laid on *Leather*, the Traders therein  
will raise the Prizes in Proportion to the said Duty.

To which it is answered, That by reason of the Poverty of most of the  
Manufacturers of *Leather*, that whatever Duty is laid (it may be proved)  
will not raise the Prizes, as by Experience was found to the very great Loss  
of the Dealers therein when the Duty was laid in the Year 1697; so that if a  
Duty be laid on *Leather*, it's humbly conceived that the Traders in it must be  
very great Sufferers, and many Families ruined thereby.

Therefore it is Humbly hoped that this Honourable  
House will not lay a Duty on a Manufactory,  
which, next to the Woollen, more nearly concerns  
the Poorer Sort of People, than any other Manu-  
factory in this Kingdom.